

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9106

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0436

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN PQ

SUBJECT: PUERTO RICO IN COMMITTEE OF 24

REF: USUN 390

1. AMB BENNETT FEB 10 CALLED ON INDONESIAN PERMREP SANI, IN LATTER'S CAPACITY AS NEWLY ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT COMMITTEE OF 24, TO URGE SANI'S CONTINUED COOPERATION IN DEFUSING PERUTO RINCAN ISSUE IN COMMITTEE THIS YEAR.
2. SANI SAID HE FAMILIAR WITH PUERTO RICAN ISSUE BECAUSE OF INDONESIA'S LONG INVOLVEMENT IN COMMITTEE AND THAT HE PERSONALLY HOPED THAT THE ISSUE WOULD GO AWAY. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT CUBA'S ENTRY INTO COMMITTEE THIS YEAR MIGHT RESULT IN COMMITTEE'S PAYING GREATER ATTENTION TO PUERTO RICO THAN IT HAS IN RECENT PAST. SANI STRESSED THAT WHEN EXTREMISTS IN NONALIGNED GROUP PUSH HARD ON AN ISSUE SUCH AS PUERTO RICO, IT VERY DIFFICULT FOR MODERATE SUCH AS INDONESIA TO TAKE FIRM PUBLIC STAND AGAINST THEM WITHOUT LOSING "NONALIGNED CREDENTIALS."
3. AMB BENNNETT EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR INDONESIAN POSITION ON PUERTO RICO AND URGED SANI TO MAKE IT BETTER KNOWN AMONG NONALIGNED.

BENNETT ADDED THAT IF MODERATES SUCH AS INDONESIA WOULD SPEAK OUT MORE FORCEFULLY ON ISSUES SUCH AS PUERTO RICO, UNREALISTIC POSITIONS AND RESOLUTIONS OF RADICAL

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MONORITY IN NONALIGNED GROUP WOULD NOT ALWAYS CARRY THE

DAY. BENNETT EMPHASIZED THAT INCREASING U.S. DIS-
ILLUSIONMENT WITH UN STEMS PRECISELY FROM THOSE EXTREME
POSITIONS, WHICH RADICAL MINORITY OFTEN PUSH THROUGH IN
NAME OF NONALIGNED.

4. AMB. SANI AGREED TO DO HIS BEST IN PRIVATE CONSULTA-
TIONS AMONG MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE OF 24'S BUREAU TO PUSH
PUERTO RICO FAR DOWN AGENDA OF COMMITTEE THIS YEAR AND,
IF POSSIBLE, TO POSTPONE ANY DISCUSSION UNTIL NEXT YEAR.
HOWEVER, PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE HAS TAUGHT THAT SANI IS
GENERALLY REASONABLE IN HIS APPROACH TO ISSUES BUT USUALLY
TIMID IN PERFORMANCE WHEN CONTENTIOUS MATTERS ARE INVOLVED.
UNFORTUNATELY, WE CANNOT COUNT ON HIM FOR VIGOROUS LEADERSHIP
ON A QUESTION LIKE PUERTO RICO, WHICH IS NOT OF DIRECT IN-
TEREST TO INDONESIA (IN CONTRAST TO CAMBODIA ON WHICH HE
WAS QUITE ACTIVE).
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